

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ROOM 803, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010, 11:00 A.M.**

**Voting Members present:**

Deke Copenhaver, Mayor of Augusta – **Chairman**  
Sandra Korbelik (representing Fred Cavanaugh,  
Mayor of Aiken)  
Skip Grkovic (representing Lark Jones, Mayor,  
North Augusta)  
Matthew Fowler (representing Vance Smith, GA  
DOT Commissioner)  
C. H. Williams, Mayor of Burnetttown

Ron Cross, Chairman, Columbia Co. Commission –  
**Vice- Chairman**

**Voting Members absent:**

George James, Mayor of Grovetown  
Tom Cobb, Mayor of Blythe

Henry Taylor, SC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional  
District Commissioner, ½ vote  
Charles Dalton, SC – 3<sup>rd</sup> District Highway  
Commissioner, ½ vote  
Robert Buchwitz, Chairman Hephzibah  
Commission  
Ronnie Young, Chairman, Aiken County  
Council  
John Curry (representing Col John Holwick –  
Fort Gordon)

**Others Present (N = Nonvoting Member)**

**Augusta-Richmond Co. Planning Commission**

George Patty  
Paul DeCamp  
Lynn Russell  
Marya Moultrie

**City of Augusta**

David Griffith  
Heyward Johnson

**Aiken County**

Stephen Strohminger  
Gerald Jefferson

**GA DOT**

Ulysses Mitchell  
Cissy McNure

**LSCOG**

Rich Eberle

**SC DOT**

Mike Sullivan

**Other**

Frank Curti, URS Corporation  
Shontrill Baskin, CSRA RC

1. **Consider approval of the minutes of the Policy Committee meetings held on March 4, 2010.**

Mr. Grkovic moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting. Mayor Williams seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Consider amending the FY 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to add \$1 million for a Park & Ride facility as requested by the City of**

**North Augusta. The proposed location is at Exit 5 off Interstate 20 (see attached).**

Mr. Grkovic presented this item. The SC Policy Subcommittee and the TCC and CAC recommended \$1 million in FY 2010 funds for construction of this project. This project represents another local effort to reduce vehicle miles travelled and thereby improve air quality.

Mr. Cross moved to approve this amendment to the TIP and Long Range Plan. Mayor Williams seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 3. Consider amending the FY 2010 UPWP to include carry over funds from FY 2009 for the Northside Road Network Study, as requested by the City of Aiken. The total budget for the study is \$150,000 (80/20 match using Federal PL funds).**

Mrs. Korbelik presented this item. This amendment is needed just in case the project is not completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Cross moved to approve this amendment to the UPWP. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 4. Consider recommending approval of the draft ARTS FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (see attached).**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The summary is attached to the agenda. A corrected sheet for the summary was distributed. The first couple of pages summarize the lump sum funding for such items as road maintenance, bridge painting and safety improvements in Georgia and South Carolina, followed by pages summarizing individual road and bridge projects for Aiken, Columbia and Richmond Counties, transit expenditures and ITS projects.

The draft TIP will go out for public review and comment and the final TIP will be submitted to the Policy Committee in September..

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the draft FY 2011 TIP. Mr. Cross seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 5. Status of Projects:**
  - (a) Georgia Highways**

Mrs. McNure presented this item. The signal upgrade project on Broad Street was let to bid on May 21, 2010. Six bids were received. The low bid was \$2,689,348.59. The award announcement will be made on June 4, 2010.

Project updates include:

- William Few Parkway Extension – The FONSI re-evaluation will be submitted in mid June. Additional information is required to support Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) received from FEMA.
- Flowing Wells Road Widening – The work on this project has stopped due to funding issues.
- Old Petersburg / Old Evans Road Widening – Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 202 of 284 parcels have been acquired.
- Wrightsboro Road Widening - Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 147 of 182 parcels have been acquired. Final Plans are 80% complete.
- I-520 from Gordon Highway to US 1 (Deans Bridge Road) – Right-of-way plans were approved.
- Windsor Spring Road Widening (Phases IV and V) – Re-evaluation of environmental document was approved on May 13, 2010. A request for right-of-way funds was submitted on May 14. Final design is 60% complete.
- SR 28 (Sand Bar Ferry Road) at Laney-Walker Blvd. Ext. / Riverfront Drive Intersection Improvements - preliminary plans underway
- SR 56/Mike Padgett Hwy. Widening from Bennock Mill Road to Old Waynesboro Road - Environmental is underway.

Mr. Cross stated that Tony Collins with GA DOT expressed an interest some time ago about the County taking over the rest areas on Interstate 20. Columbia County expressed an interest in looking at this, but has heard nothing more from the state. The request came from the federal government through the state. They are trying to unload the rest areas. Columbia County is not sure if they want them. It does have some possibilities if there is enough freedom to do things.

Mrs. McNure stated nothing has been done at this point. She will check and let everyone know.

### **(b) South Carolina Highways**

Mr. Sullivan presented this item. There were no significant changes since the last report.

Mrs. Korbelik provided the status on the Whiskey Road stimulus project. The project has been let and a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week. Work will hopefully be completed before the holiday shopping season begins. The bid has also been let on the right turn lane on Silver Bluff Road onto Dougherty Road.

### **(c) Augusta Public Transit**

Mr. Johnson presented this item. A public information meeting is scheduled for today, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5 - 7 pm at May Park on the elimination of Route 15 - Medical Complex. The Transit Development Plan calls for the elimination of this route. The Augusta Commission will make the final decision to eliminate the route. Last year approximately \$208,000 was spent on the route with only revenues of \$6,000. There is service all around this route so most people in the area will have still have access to transit services.

Three 35-foot low floor buses are being purchased from Bush Industries of America out of New York. Delivery will be in late summer or early fall. Surveillance cameras are now on the paratransit vehicles and the new buses and will be added to the current fleet. The cameras are being purchased with \$500,000 in grant funds.

Mayor Copenhaver asked if bike racks will be put on the buses. The three new buses will have bike racks installed and ARRA funds will be used to add them to the rest of the fleet.

**(d) Aiken County Transit**

Mr. Eberle presented this item. Since the last report, LSCOG has had some cut backs in service at the end of last year that are still in place. We are aggressively looking for revenue to add the Saturday service back. Two new buses have been delivered. One will be used for the Best Friends Express and the other for the Dial-a-Ride system. They are currently being licensed and tagged. Hopefully one will be wrapped in way to jazz it up a little. A company has been identified that will detail the vehicle at an affordable price. Three new bus shelters will be erected in the Aiken area - one is at the hospital, one at the Aiken Housing Authority, and the third will be at the University of South Carolina Aiken Campus.

**7. Update on Special Studies Projects:**

**(a) ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan**

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. We are continuing to move forward on the 2035 LRTP with the consultant Wilbur Smith and Associates. The goals and objectives have been identified and the data collection and analysis has been completed. We are in the process of evaluating the projects against the financial constraints and environmental impact. The plan is to have a draft completed in June so a public information meeting can be held in July. There has been some concern from Aiken officials on how the model reflects socioeconomic data. All these concerns have been addressed.

**(b) City of Aiken and Aiken Special Studies**

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. The US 1 / US 78 study contract has been awarded to Wilbur Smith and Associates. This will be an 18-month project that will cover US 1 / US 78 from the Savannah River to Hitchcock Parkway in Aiken. We will be looking at the corridor because all the economic development along the corridor in the last ten years warrants the study. Traffic on the thoroughfare is increasing so we want to look at the function of the roadway and land use along the corridor. Bike and pedestrian facilities will also be addressed as part of the study.

Wilbur Smith is the consultant for the county travel demand model study. All the socioeconomic data has been submitted and the model has been run. The 95-page document will be ready to review during the same time as the Long Range Transportation Plan update is put out for public review in June and July.

Mrs. Korbely presented the North Side Road study. Some of the TAZs have been split and the economic data is being reviewed. The update to the UPWP was to make sure the timeline is continuous and there will be no problems with consultant obligations.

## **8. Update on Air Quality Initiatives**

### **(a) Aiken County**

Mr. Jefferson presented this item. The Park and Ride Facility has already been discussed. Local officials met to discuss the issues we face with the non attainment designation. The purpose of the meeting was to discern the parties responsible for transportation conformity, the transportation conformity process and the transportation planning process and who will be involved and what tools will be needed to address these issues.

EPA is proposing to strengthen the 8-hour "primary" ozone standard and to establish a seasonal "secondary" standard for ground level ozone. Public meetings were held February 2 and 4, 2010 in Virginia, Texas and California. EPA accepted comments for 60 days following these meetings. Final standards will be issued by August 31, 2010. The states will make recommendations for areas to be designated by January 2011. EPA will make final area designations by July 2011 and the designations will become effective by August 2011. State Implementation Plans outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standards are due to EPA by December 2013. States are required to meet the primary standard with deadlines depending on the severity of the problem.

### **(b) Richmond County**

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. The CSRA Air Quality Alliance website continues to be updated as needed. The Air Quality Initiatives Update for the ARTS study area has been posted to the website. So far, no comments or additions have been received. Additionally, information from the Clean Air Campaign is being distributed through the website, the ARTS newsletter, and through the email distribution list.

On the issue of water quality, committee members discussed the ramifications of the recommended limits on discharges into the Savannah River and how this issue will be worked out between Georgia and South Carolina. EPA is pushing this off to the locals to work out who gets a share. They are not requiring daily local calculations.

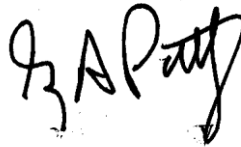
## **9. Overview of Georgia 2020 Transportation Act**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. The Georgia Legislature in the last session passed House Bill 277 which is the Transportation Investment Act of 2010. This sets up twelve sales and use tax districts across the state comparable to the South Carolina COGs. In these districts, a process is established to set up a roundtable of elected officials that can establish a list of transportation projects and have the votes in each of the districts to vote on a 1-cent sales tax to fund these projects. This adds a funding mechanism to what is already in place - local, state and federal dollars that go to transportation improvement projects.

This tax is voted on regionally. The actual vote cannot occur until the primaries in the year 2012. Between now and then the regional roundtables will be established and they will go through a

process, in conjunction with the State DOT and other stakeholders, of establishing a list of projects for voters to consider. This is not mandatory that a vote take place in all these districts. The State provides more of the matching funds in areas where a positive vote has occurred. If you are in a district that does not approve the penny sales tax, then your matching requirement for transportation projects will be higher. If the sales tax is approved it is in place for ten years and can be renewed at the end of the period. Twenty-five percent of the tax proceeds will be designated for discretionary use by the local governments within the district.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GAPatty". The signature is stylized with a large "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George A. Patty  
Project Director